

# Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 39, Number 06

June 2014

## President's Note

*Michael P. Redlich*

*June 2014*

### ACGNJ Kicks Off Its 40th Year!

After a short break from my President's Note in the May newsletter, I'm back for June!

On June 13, 1975, ACGNJ held its first official meeting. I use the term, official, because I understand there were some initial meetings before ACGNJ became an entity. As many of you know, Sol Libes founded ACGNJ and served as President for eight years. Today, Sol is Director Emeritus on the ACGNJ Board of Directors and remains very active in the annual Trenton Computer Festival (TCF) with his wife, Lennie.

Many of you have heard me say multiple times how proud I am to be the current President of the club. It's an honor to be leading a computer club that is one of the oldest in the world with a very rich history and to know and work with Sol Libes.

During that very first ACGNJ meeting, I was only 13 years old (turning 14 on November 1). Little did I  
*(Continued On Page 3)*



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

**This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!**

Operating System: Ubuntu 12.04 LTS

Desktop Publisher: Scribus 1.3.3.13

Word Processor: LibreOffice Writer 3.3.4

## ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website ([www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org)).

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:

<http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/>

**Lunics (Linux/UNIX):** Monday, June 2, 8 PM  
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Tues, Jun 3, 7 PM  
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

**Main Meeting:** Friday, June 6. 8:00 PM  
**ACGNJ 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

**Layman's Forum:** **CANCELED**  
(Please see the announcement on page 3)

**Java:** Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 PM  
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

**Mobile Devices:** Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 PM  
Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org )

**Investing:** Thursday, June 12, 8:00 PM  
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

**NJ Gamers:** Friday, June 13, 6:00 PM  
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

**Web Browser:** Monday, June 16, 7:30 PM  
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

**C/C++:** Tuesday, June 17, 7:30 PM  
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

**Window Pains:** Friday, June 20, 7:00 PM  
**Annual Planning Meeting** (See page 3)  
John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page.**

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C Languages	Bruce Arnold	(908) 735-7898		Bob Hawes	
Genealogy	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681		David McRitchie	
Hardware	Mike Reagan			Michael Reagan	
Investing	Jim Cooper			(Open)	
Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410			
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842			
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer				
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell				
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy				
Web Browser	David McRitchie				
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070			
Window Pains	John Raff	(973) 533-0664			
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			Membership	Bob Hawes	
			Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
			Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
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## ACGNJ News

### Editor

Robert D. Hawes  
**bob.hawes@acgnj.org**

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**Tips for reviewers:** Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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**Address Changes** should be e-mailed to [membership@acgnj.org](mailto:membership@acgnj.org) or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

**Membership:** Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

**Typographic Note:** This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

### E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>).

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## **President's Note, continued from page 1**

realize back then that I would ultimately have the opportunity to be leading what is now considered the oldest and longest-running computer club.

We will commemorate this milestone during our Main Meeting on June 6, 2014. Sol Libes will be on-hand to make a presentation with pictures of ACGNJ's very early years and discuss how ACGNJ got started along with its early activities. I am hoping

that other surviving members from those early years will be able to attend. It would be great to hear the old stories.

Please tell all your family, friends, and work colleagues about this special event. We will be providing refreshments as part of the celebration! I certainly hope to see you there.

Mike

## **ACGNJ Announcements**

### **Main Meeting**

Friday, June 6, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
ACGNJ 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
(Please see the President's Note above)

### **Mobile Devices Meeting**

Friday, June 11, 2014, 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM.  
**Topic:** Windows Phone  
**Speaker:** Brenda Bell

### **Layman's Forum Meeting**

The June 9 Layman's Forum meeting has been  
**CANCELED**, because the Chairman  
(Matt Skoda) will **not** be available.

### **Window Pains Meeting**

Friday, June 20, 2014, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.  
**Annual ACGNJ Planning Meeting**  
(Please see the announcement below)

## **2014 ACGNJ Planning Meeting**

*Michael P. Redlich, ACGNJ*

I want to take this opportunity to let you know that, in lieu of our regularly scheduled Window Pains Meeting on June 20, 2014., the ACGNJ Board of Directors has decided to hold our Annual Planning Meeting before the summer season this year. I believe this would be an interesting experiment to see if we have an increase in attendance with this move to June instead of August. As usual, it will be held at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad starting at **7:00pm**. Dinner will be served, but you must "sing for your supper," as it were, by suggesting two (2) topics for ACGNJ Main and Window Pains meetings.

As most of you are already aware, the intent of this meeting is to brainstorm topics for the Main and Window Pains meetings. We rely on you, our valued members, to select the best possible presentations for these meetings. Remember, ACGNJ is your computer club. It is important that we all work together to make this a computer club that will attract and retain new members. We need to show prospective members that the personal touch we offer in all of our special interest groups makes a difference for things such as solving hardware and/or operating system problems, learning more about a

programming language, or learning how to invest via the Internet.

As a way of saying "thank you," we will provide dinner. All we ask in return is to suggest two topics for consideration. Should any of your topics be selected and scheduled for a Main or Window Pains meeting, we ask further for you to present the topic yourself or provide a speaker.

This is a model we have used in the past. While scheduling the topics is trivial, it's being ready for your particular presentation that can be challenging. I realize that we are all very busy caring for our families, working 40+ hours a week, and dealing with day-to-day activities. It's easy to forget about being ready for your presentation. It is incumbent upon all of us, that is, the ACGNJ Board of Directors and you to ensure every presentation will be ready to go as it's scheduled date draws near.

So please mark your calendars for June 20, 2014. If you can attend, please come out to support your club. (For further information and an RSVP form, please go to: <http://www.acgnj.org/pm/pma.html>). We appreciate all you do for ACGNJ throughout the year!

## ACGNJ Mini-Reports

### Main Meeting Report

*Mike Redlich, ACGNJ*

At our May 2, 2014 Main Meeting, Joe Jesson presented "The Exponential Growth of the Internet-of-Things (IoT)". Joe defined the term, discussed some of the current limitations, and demonstrated some of the applications using IoT. He also showed the logistics systems architecture such as the one the Walmart uses. There were 12 attendees.

### Java Users Group Report

*Mike Redlich, ACGNJ*

At our May 13, 2014 meeting, Mike introduced "A Technical Overview of Vert.x". Vert.x is a lightweight, high performance application platform for the Java Virtual Machine that's designed for modern mobile, web, and enterprise applications. He reviewed source code of various examples on how to use Vert.x. There were 11 attendees.

### Window Pains Report

*Brenda Bell and John Raff*

We had a total of 7 attendees at our Window Pains Meeting on Friday, May 16, 2014. John tried to get things started, but the members just wanted to talk. He asked each attending to tell about their use of web browsers. Most were using either one or two. Brenda came in with about 7 or 8 on her several

devices. And then the conversation drifted off onto other subjects the attending were more interested in. The session devolved into Dave McRitchie talking about his Firefox bookmarklets, and from there a few comments about photography and photography clubs just as we were reaching 10PM.

### ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (May 8th, 2014)

*Philip Lees, ACGNJ*

We had **12** members at the meeting and there was a lot of discussion in the segments. As per the agenda, Jim Cooper opened with his discussion of an open option trade that is currently "bad," meaning that the stock suddenly gapped against his position (he was bullish in a biotech stock, which collapsed after his position was established). It is horrible if that situation happens, but it *\*can\** happen (to all of us).

We discussed some option strategies that he could use to extend the duration of his trade, plus ways to potentially regain some or all of the loss. He has currently "extended his trade." Other steps will

depend on whether the stock price recovers at all, and whether he is 'put' (has to take) the actual stock.

After the break, Ernest Andalcio gave an ETF presentation, emphasizing the built-in costs and "hazards" in a number of ETFs (that are rarely discussed in financial media.)

Be careful about which ETFs you trade and be aware of the hidden (discretely disclosed and undisclosed) costs!

Once again, please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them. We hope to see you at June's meeting, **6/12/2014**. Thank you. Philip Lees

### 39/40: An Editorial Nit Pick

*Bob Hawes, ACGNJ*

Due to circumstances that *shouldn't* have been beyond my control, I had to shorten this month's newsletter by four pages; and yet I *still* wound up with a hole on this page that needed to be filled. So I wrote this little Editorial to fill it.

In his President's Note on our front page, Mike Redlich wrote "ACGNJ Kicks Off Its 40<sup>th</sup> Year", and he was absolutely *correct*; but at the same time, he was also very confusing. Already, I've seen several people write that we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and that's completely **WRONG!**

Here's the sequence: On June 13, 2014, it will be exactly 39 years since the club held its first meeting (on June 13, 1975). Thus, it will be our **39<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary. While it's true that we begin our 40<sup>th</sup> year of operation on the very next day, we won't celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary until the *end* of that year, on June 13, 2015.

Way, way back in the Golden Days of Radio, the late, great Jack Benny discovered that, as an age, 39 is just flat out *funnier* than 40. That's why he stayed 39 for the rest of his life. While I don't advocate we go that far, I say let's enjoy being 39 while we can. We'll be 40 *next* year. ☐

## What's More Valuable than a Bitcoin?

*A. Gresham, Editor, Under the Computer Hood User Group*

*Newsletter: UCHUG Drive Light ([www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)) 1editor101 (at) uchug.org*

You may have heard recently that the publishers of the Oxford Dictionaries' word for the year for 2013 is "selfie." "Selfie" beat out seven competitors, including "twerk," "schmeat" (synthetically produced meat) and "bitcoin" for the Word of the Year crown.

According to the November 20 Article in CNN.COM, the word "selfie" first popped up in an Australian chat room on September 13, 2002, to describe an undignified scene, the dictionaries' publishers believe.

Oxford editors say it is "A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website."

This topic came up at our last board meeting when a board member asked if anyone had heard this recent news.

We often discuss recent topics and news - tech gossip if you will - at our meetings. Many times this has spawned additional discussion and sometimes even a presentation

to our group in answer to questions and issues raised.

In this case it resulted in a live demonstration in real time when the editor pulled out his cell phone/notepad/calendar/address book/texting/alarm clock/calculator/stop watch/camera device and proceeded to snap a Selfie.

But just to make actual good use of the camera he quickly turned the phone on the crowd and took a picture of our two newest board members.

And just for the record, the value of one Bitcoin recently exceeded \$1,000.00 US. A year ago it was worth \$20. As of 27 November 2013 it is worth over \$1028, and rising steadily.

With over 57 million photos bearing the hashtag - #selfie - on Instagram alone, I don't know if they are worth more..... or worthless! Here's looking at you, kid.

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## Distros Revisited (Part 3)

*Bob Hawes, ACGNJ*

First, some recap: Distros are Linux Distributions. I first mentioned them **nine** years ago in the **first** article that I ever wrote for this newsletter (*Linux Dual Boot Experiments*, in our May 2005 issue). In the first two parts of **this** article (*Distros Revisited (Part 1)* in our April 2014 issue and *Distros Revisited (Part 2)* in our May 2014 issue), I recounted how I chose Ubuntu when I made my permanent move to Linux in 2009, and how I was quite happy with it. Until, that is, the Ubuntu developers had an attack of Gates-like behavior, and tried to force me to switch to the Unity desktop.

The thing is, I really, *really, really, REALLY, REALLY* don't like the Unity desktop, so that just **isn't** an option as far as I'm concerned. In *Revenge of the 13 Things* (my article in our April 2013 issue), I described how I managed to produce a version of Ubuntu 12.04 LTS that was acceptable to me, thus keeping Unity away from my boot hard disk until April of 2015 (when 12.04 expires). If the Ubuntu developers haven't come to their senses by then, I'll have to find another Linux distribution for my own personal use. So I've started searching for candidates **now**.

In Part 1 and Part 2, I chose six distros as possible

replacements; but I only managed to look at three of them (Debian, Linux Mint, and simplyMEPIS). MEPIS and Mint did OK; but unfortunately, Debian **failed**. This time, we'll be featuring the other three (Fedora, Mageia, and openSUSE). As I described in Part 2, they've already been downloaded, verified, and burned to disk. Here are their install DVDs:

Fedora 20 i386 (4.4 GB)

Mageia 4 i586 (3.7 GB)

openSUSE 13.1 i586 (4.1 GB)

Now for some new stuff: In 1999, for my first hands-on experience with Linux, I bought the commercial boxed set of Red Hat Linux 6.0 from my regular computer store. Here, fifteen years later, we're going to check out its descendant: Fedora 20. So I inserted one of my spare "18" GB hard disks into my computer, used my special GParted live-CD to wipe out all of its previous contents, and rebooted from the Fedora DVD. I filled in the usual startup screens, and then sat back and waited. **One hour and eighteen minutes** later, the installation was completed, and I was told to reboot.

After the computer restarted, I got a small shadowy white rectangle in the center of my screen, and **nothing else**.

## Distros Revisited (Part 3), *continued*

Nothing I tried made any difference (although I did get occasional flashes from my drive activity light); and after about ten minutes, my monitor lost its input. So I rebooted, and I got the same lack of results. After about ten minutes, my monitor quit again. So I rebooted again, but this time from my GParted live-CD. Examining my hard disks contents, front to back, I saw 1 **MB** of unallocated space, a 500 MB primary Ext4 partition with 97.55 MB used, a 1.69 GB primary swap partition, and a 14.71 GB primary Ext4 partition with 3.85 GB used.

Now, I vaguely recall seeing a partition layout similar to this somewhere before. So it **might** be a legitimate arrangement, but it's nothing I've ever used in one of my own computers; and it's certainly **NOT** what I intended for Fedora's install routine to create this time. So Fedora failed; but that raised a question. So far, **two** highly regarded Linux distributions have been unable to install themselves on my computer. So I have to consider the possibility that it might be **my** fault. However, my current subject computer has a genuine Intel motherboard with a real Pentium 4 processor. **Not** a rare or unusual machine. There just shouldn't be any incompatibility problems. (It **is** getting older, though). However, there wasn't any other option. I had to bring in a different computer.

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First, I painstakingly lowered the computer to the floor. Then, I moved a few feet forward, leaned on something so I wouldn't fall down, then reached back and slid the computer over to me. Obviously, I had to repeat these actions many times, until I finally got that computer next to my second best computer. Then, I pulled all the cables (keyboard, monitor, power, etc.) from the older machine, and stuck them into the newer one. As I think some diva once said; "Oh, the sacrifices I have to make for my art".

Now, I'll try Fedora again, on my slightly newer "best" computer. This time, I used my **other** spare 18 GB hard disk. As before, I used my GParted live-CD to wipe out its contents, and then booted from the Fedora DVD. Also as before, I filled in the startup screens; but this time, I accepted their default partitioning. An hour and **four** minutes later, the installation was complete, and I was told to reboot. This time, I got a legible screen and was able to log in. In the upper left hand corner of the screen, there was what looked like a drop-down menu. When I clicked on it, though, I got a column of icons on the left side of my screen, (**Not** the nice, sensible list of programs that I was hoping for). I clicked on the LibreOffice icon, and my word processor launched successfully.

Unfortunately, things went downhill from there. I tried to

Now, I have to give you some personal information. Before I had my current medical difficulties, I had three separate computer areas laid out: A "work" area set up in an office-like environment. A "play" area set up around a couch in my living room (for watching Internet TV and other such frivolities); and a "laboratory" area for assembling and/or tearing apart experimental machines. (Sadly, I **don't** access my laboratory by opening a secret panel disguised as a book case, and then going down a long, winding stone staircase to a dark former dungeon; but wouldn't it be fun if I did?) Now, since the **four** operations on my feet, I've been hobbling around on crutches. So my cluttered "laboratory" is much too hard to get around in at the moment, and even my "work" area is difficult. Therefore, I've been doing almost everything in my more comfortable "play" area.

As you might expect, I'd put my best computer in my work area. (It has an Asus motherboard with an Intel Pentium 4 processor). My second best computer was in my play area (the aforementioned Intel motherboard with Pentium 4). Everything else (older stuff) was in my laboratory. Right now, unfortunately, nothing in the laboratory is suitable for use. So I had to drag my best computer over to my play area; and I mean that literally.

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find GParted, but I couldn't. Then, I found that I couldn't get anything else to work, either. Apparently, my computer had hung up. So I shut it down and rebooted from my GParted live-CD. I saw 1 MB of unallocated space, a 500 MB primary Ext4 boot partition with 99.34 MB used, and a 16.40 GB primary lvm partition. (**No** swap partition). Moving on, I switched hard disks again, and tried to install Fedora one more time.

This time, when I filled in the startup screens, I tried to set up the partitions my way. An hour and **seven** minutes later, the installation was complete, and I was told to reboot; but when I did, I got **nothing**. Employing my GParted live-CD again, I saw 1 MB of unallocated space, a 500 MB primary Ext4 partition with 90.90 MB used, a 1.69 GB primary swap partition, and a 14.71 GB primary Ext4 partition with 3.72 GB used. In any case, this was Fedora's third strike. So, like Debian, it was **out!**

Speaking of Debian, it was only fair that I give it one more chance, on the newer machine. So I did. As before, a minute after I booted from it, the Debian DVD presented a "**Boot menu**" with seven options. I chose "**Install**". It took me 5 minutes to get through their fill-in screens. Then, another 16 minutes later (after I entered my newly created password), I got the same greenish

## Distros Revisited (Part 3), *continued*

screen with a white curlicue that I got before; but this time, there was a thin black bar running across the top of the screen, containing tiny white printing. However, only my user name (bob) in the top right hand corner was legible, Everything else might as well have been written in Martian.

Based on my Fedora experience above, I clicked on the incomprehensible writing in the top left hand corner of my display; and, indeed, I got a column of icons on the left side of my screen. When I clicked on the LibreOffice icon, my word processor did launch; but **not** successfully. I got a blue rectangle in the center of my screen, but nothing else; and after that, nothing worked right any more. When I rebooted the computer from my GParted Live-CD, I saw a 16.88 GB hard disk with a 16.15 GB primary Ext4 partition containing 3.87 GB of files, and a 751 MB extended partition containing a 751 MB logical swap partition. Debian did better than before, but **still** not good enough. Some time in the future, I'll have to try Debian again (and Fedora, too) on another motherboard, maybe with a **non**-Intel processor; but for now, they're both **out**.

Moving along, I next installed Mageia. Using my "40" GB hard disk this time, I booted from the Mageia CD.

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background and a black band across the top. At the far left of that band was the word Activities. When I clicked on that word, I got a column of icons on the left hand side of the screen. One looked familiar, so I clicked on it. It was, indeed, the LibreOffice icon, and it launched the LibreOffice Writer program. Unfortunately, that program never finished loading, and everything just hung up. Rebooting from my GParted Live-CD, I saw the same number of partitions with the same sizes, but with slightly smaller Used figures. (No doubt because I hadn't installed the Updates). What's that, Mr. Umpire? **Strike Two!**

Rebooting again from the Mageia CD, I accepted the license, chose Custom (the third and final option) as my desktop and said NO to the Updates. (I also used a **different** "18" GB hard disk for luck). **Fifty-eight minutes** later, my results were the same as KDE above. After I logged in, I got the same Welcome to Mageia pop-up window which stayed blank, and the only key combination that worked was Ctrl and Esc; but that got me the same System Activity pop-up window that also stayed blank.

When I rebooted the computer from my GParted Live-CD, I saw a 16.88 GB hard disk with 1.00 MB of unallocated space, an 8.80 GB primary Ext4 partition

About a minute later, I was required to accept a license for "Software Products". A Gates-like vibe for sure. Three minutes later, I was given a choice of desktops. I chose the default (KDE). Forty-six minutes after that, I was given the choice of installing Updates. I chose the default (Yes). **An hour and two minutes** after I started, I was told to reboot. After I logged in, I got a Welcome to Mageia pop-up window which otherwise stayed blank. I closed that window, but the screen stayed blank. I tried various key combinations, but nothing worked except when I pressed Ctrl and Esc. Then, a System Activity window popped up, but otherwise stayed blank.

When I rebooted the computer from my GParted Live-CD, I saw a 37.27 GB hard disk with 1.00 MB of unallocated space, a 12.01 GB primary Ext4 boot partition containing 4.08 GB of files, a further 1.23 MB of unallocated space, and then a 25.26 GB extended partition containing a 2.88 GB logical swap partition, 1.80 MB more unallocated space, and a 22.37 GB logical Ext4 partition containing 531.53 MB of files. Wow. What's that I heard you say, Mr. Umpire? **Strike One!**

Booting for a second time, I chose GNOME as my desktop and NO for the Updates. **Thirty-three minutes** later, after I logged in, I got a screen with a green

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containing 3.94 GB of files, a further 1.97 MB of unallocated space, and then an 8.08 GB extended partition containing a 994.25 MB logical swap partition, 1.75 MB more unallocated space, and a 7.11 GB logical Ext4 partition containing 258.32 MB of files. Well, what do you say, Ump? **Strike Three! You're OUT!!!**

That only leaves openSUSE. Once again, I started with my "40" GB hard disk. About a minute after I booted from the SUSE CD, I was forced to agree to a license. Wow. That Gates-like behavior sure does get around. Right after that, I was prompted to pick a desktop. I chose KDE (the default). Twenty-five minutes after I started, the computer told me it was going to automatically reboot, and then it did. Seven minutes after that, I got a screen that was blank. Nothing was visible, and nothing I tried (including Ctrl-Esc) had any affect. Eventually, I manually rebooted the computer. This time, I **did** get a viewable screen, with a Welcome message that I could actually read, and a few icons, one of which was LibreOffice. When I clicked it, though, Writer started but hung up. Talk about history repeating itself.

So I tried again with one of my "18" GB hard disks. I agreed to the license and I chose GNOME as my desktop. After it was finished, my results were about the same as

## Distros Revisited (Part 3), *continued*

above. I *didn't* get a readable Welcome message; but I *did* get some icons. One launched LibreOffice, but again, it hung up; and now I've given up. To keep with the baseball metaphor, I'm calling this article on account of "rain". (A deluge of bad installations). Of the six distros that I chose to investigate, only two (Linux Mint and simplyMEPIS) installed correctly. **FOUR** of them (Debian, Fedora, Mageia and openSUSE) failed!

Now, in the twenty-six years that I've been working with Personal Computers, I've run into incompetence a lot more than once; but *not* on this grand a scale, and **DEFINITELY NOT** from open-source software. I don't know that much about Mageia (I picked it because of its high popularity rating); but Debian, Fedora and openSUSE are certainly "heavy hitters" in the Linux world. I find it hard to believe that all three of them could mess up this badly. The cause of these problems just *has* to be *my* computers. Both are well over two years old. Maybe they're just *too* old for cutting edge Linux software.

Unfortunately, my current physical condition prevents me from building a new computer; and I *CAN'T* buy a new one because (shudder) it would have Windows pre-installed. (Oh! The Horror!). Sadly, I just can't examine

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either of my available machines. (If it didn't work, I wouldn't be able to tell if it was because of my chip or their software). Theoretically, that i386 Fedora 20 image should work OK; but we *already* know that it *didn't*. So there's nothing more we can do with Fedora.

On the other hand, those Mageia downloads are both i586 releases, which should work fine with Pentium 4 processors. (Although, as above, we *already* know that the newer one *didn't*). So I cleared everything from one of my "18" GB hard disks and tried to install Mageia 3; and it *worked!* Half an hour after I started, I got a visible desktop, and was able to find the LibreOffice icon. Then, when I clicked on it, it launched successfully, and I was able to type in some stuff and save my new file to disk. In other words, the older version of Mageia worked even though the newer version didn't. (At least *something* worked right this month. Too bad it's now obsolete). As a result, I've developed the theory that some time between May of 2013 (when Mageia version 3 was released) and February of 2014 (when version 4 was released), one or more transcendent geniuses did things to several different distros that just happen to make them incompatible with both of my computers. How rude!

Now, I must confess to a memory lapse. Recently,

those four distros fairly. Happily, I've got two good installations (Linux Mint and simplyMEPIS) that I *can* investigate further. They (and possibly one or two others) will be the subjects of future articles. (*Not* right away, though. I've got something else planned for next month).

### Appendix I: Some Afterthoughts

A while *after* I had given up (above), it occurred to me that there *was* something else I could do fairly easily. There were two older ISO DVD images that I had *already* downloaded (in October of 2013), but hadn't yet used. Here are the older and newer downloads for both Fedora and Mageia:

Fedora-Live-Desktop-i686-19-1.iso (919.0 MB)

Fedora-20-i386-DVD.iso (4.4 GB)

Mageia-3-LiveDVD-GNOME-i586-DVD.iso (1.4 GB)

Mageia-4-i586-DVD.iso (3.7 GB)

Note that i686 in the Fedora 19 filename, compared to the i386 in Fedora 20. I don't claim to be a chip guru; but it's my understanding that an i686 operating system will *probably* work on a Pentium 4 machine. (It depends on the exact lineage of the specific chip involved). Thus, downloading that particular file was a mistake on my part, because it can't be relied upon to do a fair test on

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somewhere, I ran into somebody's favorable review of a distro called LXLE, which can be installed on older computers and has its own desktop environment (LXDE). Of course, it might just be more of the same; but it also could be *exactly* what I want. Unfortunately, I can't remember who wrote that review, or where it was located; and an Internet search failed to turn up anything that looked familiar. Thus, sadly, I can't give credit where it's due. Anyway, as is my usual practice, I went to [distrowatch.com](http://distrowatch.com), looked up LXLE, and then went to its home page.

What I found there made my blood run cold. They don't seem to offer any type of download except Torrents, and before you can submit your request, you are required to answer a question that sure looks like some kind of a trap to me. Wow. A double whammy. **Two** Gates-like vibes at the same time, before I could even start a download. Now, I don't really have anything against Torrents. As is my right, I just *don't* want to use them. Also, I don't ever answer weird or suspicious questions; and I absolutely **DON'T** trust anybody who tries to force me to do either, much less both. This is one distro that I definitely *won't* be investigating.

See you next month. ☺

# SIG News

## LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

## Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

## Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July and August. ☐

## Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about ast experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

## Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

## Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

## WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

## SIG News, *continued*

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☐

### Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

[http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig\\_investment.html](http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html)

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☐

### NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

[www.lanparty.com](http://www.lanparty.com)

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☐

### Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

### C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

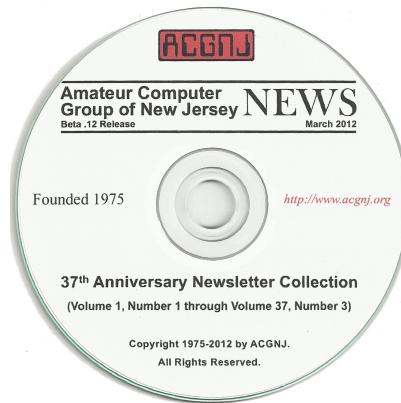
### Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

## 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

### Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☐

## Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

### Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
<b>Operating Systems</b>		
Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942

## ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

**L, XL: \$15.00**  
**M: 2 for \$15.00**  
**bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org**

## ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at [www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html](http://www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html) and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

New Member  Renewal  Address Change

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ URL \_\_\_\_\_

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Local Computer Groups		
<b>Princeton Macintosh User Group:</b> 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, <a href="http://www.pmug-nj.org">www.pmug-nj.org</a>	<b>Linux Users Group in Princeton:</b> 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ <a href="http://www.lugip.org">http://www.lugip.org</a>	<b>New York PC:</b> 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, <a href="http://www.nypc.org">http://www.nypc.org</a>
<b>Computer Education Society of Philadelphia:</b> Meetings & Workshops at Jcm Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. <a href="http://www.cesop.org/">www.cesop.org/</a>	<b>Brookdale Computer Users Group:</b> 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. <a href="http://www.bcuug.com">www.bcuug.com</a>	<b>NJ Macintosh User Group:</b> 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 <a href="http://www.njmug.org">http://www.njmug.org</a> .
<b>PC User Group of So. Jersey:</b> 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360 <a href="http://www.morrismicro.com">http://www.morrismicro.com</a>	<b>Hunterdon Computer Club:</b> 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. <a href="http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org">www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org</a> , (908) 995-4042.	<b>NY Amateur Computer Group:</b> 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. <a href="http://www.nyacc.org">http://www.nyacc.org</a>
<b>Morris Micro Computer Club:</b> 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. <a href="http://www.morrismicro.com">http://www.morrismicro.com</a>	<b>Central Jersey Computer Club:</b> 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	<b>NJ PC User Group:</b> 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, <a href="http://www.njpcug.org">www.njpcug.org</a>
<b>Philadelphia Area Computer Society:</b> 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. <a href="http://www.pacsnet.org">www.pacsnet.org</a>	<b>NJ Computer Club:</b> 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. <a href="http://www.njcc.org">http://www.njcc.org</a>	<b>Princeton PC Users Group:</b> 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, <a href="http://www.ppcug-nj.org">http://www.ppcug-nj.org</a>

## Classified

**FREE TO MEMBERS.** Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, [bdegroef@ptd.net](mailto:bdegroef@ptd.net). Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



Member of  
The Association of  
Personal Computer User Groups  
<http://www.apcug.net>

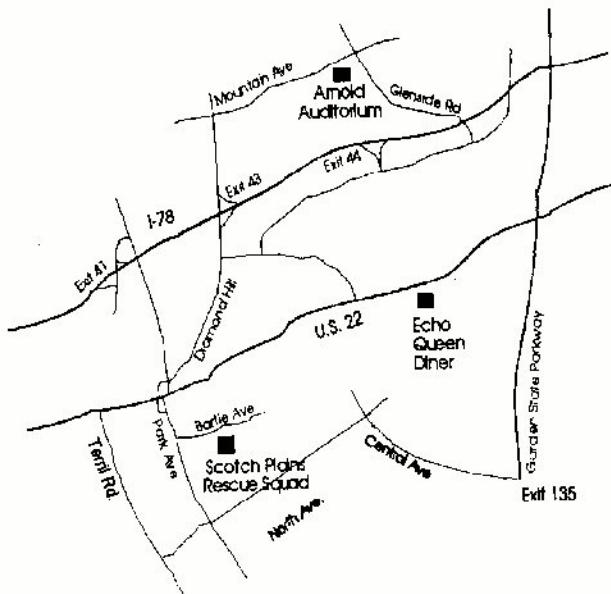
### Radio and TV Programs

**Computer Radio Show, WBAI**  
99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

**Software Review,** The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

**On Computers,** WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

**PC Talk,** Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



### Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

#### From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

#### From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

#### From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

#### From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

#### From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐